

Private insurers' strategies for purchasing imaging services

ISSUE: Should Medicare purchase imaging services with strategies used by private insurers?

KEY POINTS: In purchasing imaging services, private insurers use a number of strategies with a goal of reducing unnecessary spending while maintaining or improving quality. These strategies include:

- coding edits,
- privileging,
- accreditation of facilities,
- graduated payments for multiple services in the same claim, and
- patient and provider education.

At this meeting, Commissioners will hear presentations on such strategies from three panelists:

- Miriam Sullivan
Director of Allied Health Services
Tufts Health Plan
- Thomas Ruane, M.D.
Medical Director, PPO Programs
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- Cherrill Farnsworth
CEO and Chairman of the Board
HealthHelp, Inc.

ACTION: To provide context, the session will begin with a staff overview of Medicare's payments for imaging services. The panelists will then make presentations and answer questions. The discussion that follows will guide staff work on this topic for the June report.

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